industry highlight | by lecia parks langston, economist



Waste Management & Remediation Services

It's a dirty job, but somebody's got to do it.

ll joking aside, the waste management and remediation services industry plays a vital role in our economy. Firms categorized in this industry are engaged in the collection, treatment, and disposal of waste materials. They can haul waste materials, recycle waste materials, or provide remediation services (the cleanup of contaminated buildings, mines, soil, or water). Utah firms in this industry do everything from crime-scene cleanup to radioactive waste disposal.

In Utah, the waste management and remediation services industry accounts for roughly 4,100 jobsabout 93 percent of them in the private sector. Judging by the 7.4 percent increase in private-sector waste management employment during 2010, this industry is certainly "cleaning up" in the labor market. Interestingly, private-sector jobs pay substantially better than those in the public sector—perhaps because of the nature of the private sector work.

UTAH WASTE MANAGEMENT/REMEDIATION SERVICES **INDUSTRY OUICK FACTS 2010**

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Employment	4,100
Private Sector	3,800
% Change from 2009	7.4%
Public Sector	300
% Change from 2009	-3.8%
Average Monthly Wage	
Private Sector	\$4,296
Percent of Utah Total Average Wage	132.8%
Public Sector	\$3,022
Percent of Utah Total Average Wage	93.4%
NUMBER OF PRIVATE SECTOR FIRMS	223
LARGEST FIRMS	
EG&G Defense Materials, Inc.	
Energy Solutions, LLC	
Waste Management of Utah	
Allied Waste Services of North America	
Ace Disposal, Inc.	
Clean Harbors, Inc.	

Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services

For more information about the waste management and remediation services industries, go to: http://www.bls.gov/iag/tgs/iag562.htm